

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for the treatment and/or the prevention of diseases linked to the accumulation of triglycerides in tissues and blood comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

2. (Original) A method for the treatment and/or the prevention of diseases linked to an imbalance of cholesterol in disfavour of HDL-cholesterol in tissues and blood comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

3. (Original) A method of treatment for lowering the blood levels of triglycerides comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

4. (Original) A method of treatment for balancing the blood and/or tissues level of total cholesterol in favour of HDL-cholesterol comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~anyone of claims 3 or 4~~ claim 3 for treating or preventing hypertension.

6. (Original) A method of treatment for lowering liver triglyceride levels comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 for treating or preventing hepatic steatosis and related liver diseases.

8. (Original) A method for the treatment or prevention of an obese condition, said method comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

9. (Original) A method of treatment for the reduction or inhibition of the gain of body fat comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

10. (Original) A method for alleviating resistance or restoring sensitivity to insulin comprising at least the step of administering to a human or non human animal in need thereof, as therapeutically active agent, an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, for lowering the blood levels of insulin and/or glucose.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, for increasing the blood levels of adiponectin.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claim 10 to 12~~ claim 10 for treating or preventing type 2 diabetes and related cardiovascular diseases.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 1 to 13,~~claim 1, wherein the  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid derivative is an organic or inorganic salt, an ester or amide thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 1 to 14,~~claim 1, wherein  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is of configuration L or D or under a form of a mixture of L and D configurations.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 1 to 15,~~claim 1, wherein the animal is a human.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 1 to 15,~~claim 1, wherein the animal is an agricultural animal.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 1 to 15,~~claim 1, wherein the animal is a domestic animal.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claims 1 to 15,~~claim 1, wherein the animal is a laboratory animal.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for Use of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof as therapeutically active agent for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases linked to an accumulation of triglycerides in tissues and blood, comprising:

providing a pharmaceutical composition comprising  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof as therapeutically active agent, and  
administering the pharmaceutical composition to a human or non human animal.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for Use of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof as therapeutically active agent for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases linked to

an imbalance of blood and/or tissues level of cholesterol in disfavour of HDL-cholesterol,  
comprising:

providing a pharmaceutical composition comprising  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid,  
derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof as therapeutically active agent, and  
administering the pharmaceutical composition to a human or non human  
animal.

22. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~anyone of claims 20 or 21,~~  
claim 20, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended wherein the method is  
for the treatment and/or prevention of hypertension, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction  
and/or hyperlipemia.

23. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~anyone of claims 20 or 21,~~  
claim 20, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended wherein the method is  
for the treatment and/or prevention of hepatic steatosis, steatohepatitis and/or diabetes.

24. (Currently Amended) The use method according to ~~anyone of claims 20 to 21,~~  
claim 20, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended wherein the method is  
for the treatment and/or prevention of the syndrome X (i.e. metabolic syndrome).

25. (Currently Amended) A method for Use of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid as  
therapeutically active agent for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended for  
the treatment and/or prevention of disease linked to an accumulation of insulin or glucose  
and/or decrease of adiponectin, comprising:

providing a pharmaceutical composition comprising  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid as  
therapeutically active agent, and  
administering the pharmaceutical composition to a human or non human  
animal.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to ~~claim 25 wherein the method is for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended for alleviating the resistance or restoring the sensitivity to insulin.~~

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Use~~ The method according to ~~anyone of claim 25 or 26 claim 25 wherein the method is for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended for the prevention and/or treatment of diabetes type 2.~~

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The use method~~ according to ~~claims 20 to 27, claim 20,~~ wherein  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is ~~as defined in claim 14 or 15 of configuration L or D or under a form of a mixture of L and D configurations, or the  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is a  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid derivative which is an organic or inorganic salt, an ester or amide thereof.~~

29. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as therapeutically active agent at least an effective amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof.

30. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29 for the treatment and/or prevention of hypertension, fatty liver and metabolic syndrome.

31. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29 for the treatment and/or prevention of an obese condition.

32. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29 for the treatment and/or prevention of diabetes type 2.

33. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims 29 to 32, claim 29,~~ wherein  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is ~~as defined in claim 14 or 15 of configuration L or D or under a form of a mixture of L and D configurations, or the  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is a  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid derivative which is an organic or inorganic salt, an ester or amide thereof.~~

34. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to ~~claims 29 to 33, claim 29,~~ comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

35. (Original) A nutritional composition comprising as nutritional active agent an efficient amount of  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid, derivative, prodrug, metabolite or complex thereof effective to reduce or to prevent an increase in the total body fat mass in human or non human animal.

36. (Currently Amended) The nutritional composition according to claim 35, wherein  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is ~~as defined in claim 14 or 15~~ of configuration L or D or under a form of a mixture of L and D configurations, or the  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid is a  $\beta$ -aminoisobutyric acid derivative which is an organic or inorganic salt, an ester or amide thereof.

37. (Original) A method for producing reduction of the fat mass in a human or non-human animal in need thereof, comprising administering thereto an effective amount of nutritional composition according to claim 35.